





It will be recollected that in the Convention for the revision of the Treaty to which Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK agreed, it was stated that there should be arrangements, by which vessels could clear from the Treaty ports to subsidiary ports on the Coast, but the same privilege was not allowed to vessels clearing from Hongkong. This subsequently became one of the chief grounds of objection on the part of the Community of Hongkong to the ratification of the Convention, because it was justly apprehended that it could not fail to result in the withdrawal of the larger portion of the Coast trade from the Colony, as the likelihood would be that the new ports opened would be better suited for the Coast trade than the ports at present thrown open by Treaty. The reply of Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK to the objection made, was: "You cannot enjoy the advantages of a Colony and those of a Treaty port at the same time—" an answer not very palatable, but still not without a considerable amount of truth in it. The fact of Hongkong being free from the duties which are collected at all the Treaty ports makes the Chinese authorities unwilling to grant any facilities of trade to it. Originally it was understood that arrangements would be made for the collection of the same dues and duties in Hongkong, as were formerly collected at Canton, but the provision was afterwards withdrawn. At the same time, the natives may justly feel that through the peculiar position occupied by the Island, they are defrauded of a large amount of revenue, and this feeling forms a very strong inducement to throw obstacles in the way of the Trade, and to do all that lies in their power to diminish the influence of a port which is a source to them of so much vexation and loss. No doubt the proposal to exclude Hongkong from the proposed new facilities at the subsidiary ports was designed on the part of the Chinese as a blow at this Colony, and Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK was much to blame for accepting a Convention containing provisions which, if carried out, must have had so detrimental an influence upon a possession of the country which he represented. For his supineness in this respect no excuse can be pleaded; but it may still be a question whether, had he taken the trouble to give the matter proper consideration, a scheme could not have been devised by which Hongkong could be admitted to the same privileges as the Treaty ports, and yet no injury be done to its trading interests. This practical view seems never to have been even so much as touched of by the Minister, who thus lauded himself in the absurdity of expounding his negotiations without any reference to the necessities of the only British possession in coniguity with China. In this he was perhaps influenced in some measure by the peculiar jealousy which has always subsisted between the Colonial and the Foreign Offices, but whatever his motive, there can be no doubt that by omitting to make the arrangements respecting the trade of Hongkong an integral part of the Convention, he not only made a great omission, but probably lost an admirable opportunity for the settlement of a most vexed question. Being taken thus by surprise, the Community of Hongkong were naturally suspicious of the whole arrangement, and would listen to no ideas of compromise. Still it may be asked whether it might not be advantageous, now that the postponement of the ratifications of Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK's Convention affords the opportunity, carefully to reconsider the whole question, and ascertain whether taking a large view of the subject it might not after all be best for Hongkong to meet the Chinese Authorities half way in the matter. The idea is prevalent that the prosperity of Hongkong depends upon her being free from the liability to pay any duties to the Chinese Government. Whatever truth might be found in the view abstractly considered, there is no question that Hongkong is not free from having to pay duties at the present day. It is notorious that a cordon of cruisers surrounds the island, and that exactions are levied right and left in an irregular way. It was only the other day that a Salt Taxing office was discovered actually in the Colony; and yet people stand out against the imposition of tax on a recognised form as if it would be a great retrogression from the state of affairs at present existing. The probability is that, were arrangements made for Hongkong to contribute to the Chinese Government the same duties that are paid at the Treaty ports, the arrangement would be found so far from detrimental to the local interests of the Colony, to be one which would greatly increase its prosperity. At all events, it is worth the earnest consideration of all well-wishers of this place whether some means could not be devised to come to a fair arrangement with the Chinese Authorities, by means of which in consideration of paying the like duties as are paid at the Treaty Ports, Hongkong would be freed from the anomalous state of things now existing, and a system of regular duties substituted for the irregular and vexatious levies which, despite every effort of the local government, notoriously continue to be made.

The *Strait Times* states that the China Telegraph Company have decided on laying a cable to Saigon. The cable for this work is on board the steamer "Seydlitz" and the laying will be proceeded with as early as practicable.

Notwithstanding that yesterday was a rainy day, the market was not a very fair one, notwithstanding their performance, and was not up to the standard of the previous ones. Messrs. Hunter and Mr. Small in the ducts were wonderfully good, and the bangs were again a word. The second and third day's performances were as usual very well, received as were also the comic songs, which were appreciated with great spirit and thoroughly in character.

THE EDITOR OF THE COLONY.  
TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."  
SIR,—Hongkong, our "Island of Fragrant Straits," is rising in the scale of public estimation. Some few years ago no one could as a word, be so bold as to suggest that the Government of Hongkong was not a very good one. Now, however, the Government is being raised to the standard of the previous ones. Messrs. Hunter and Mr. Small in the ducts were wonderfully good, and the bangs were again a word. The second and third day's performances were as usual very well, received as were also the comic songs, which were appreciated with great spirit and thoroughly in character.

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[illegible]

Hongkong Bank Shares—	914-85	per cent.
Hongkong Bank Shares—	New—80	per cent.
United Insurance Society of Canton, new shares	—	at par
China Fire & Marine Insurance Company's Shares—	\$2,300	per share premium.
China and Japan Marine Insurance—	Tls. 54	per share premium.
Chinese Assurance Company—	\$75	per share premium.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—	\$370	per share premium.
China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—	\$45	per share premium.
Victoria Fire Insurance Company's Shares—	\$85	per share premium.
Hongkong and Typhoon Dock Company's Shares—	30	per share premium.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.'s Shares—	36	per cent. prem.
Singapore Steam Navigation Company's Tls. 28	per share premium.	
China and Straits Steamer & Freight Steamship Company—	5 per cent. discount.	
China and Straits Steam Navigation Company—	20 per cent. discount.	
Hongkong & Co. Company's Shares—	\$80	per share premium.
Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—	65	per cent. discount.
Hongkong Distillery Company—	10 per cent. discount.	
Indo-China Sugar Company—	\$12	per share discount.

  

ON LONDON.	
Bank Bills, at 3 months' sight,	4/4
Bank Bills, at 6 months' sight,	4/4 1/2
Credit, at 6 months' sight.....	4/5
Docketable Bills, at demand.....	4/5 1/2
Bank Bills on Amsterdam, .....	4/5 1/2
On New York.....	4/5 1/2
Private, 6 months' sight.....	229 1/2
On Calcutta—Bank, 3 days' sight.....	229 1/2
On Shanghai—Bank, 3 days' sight.....	229 1/2
Bank, 15 days' sight.....	734
Private, 3 months' sight.....	74 1/2

  

SALES ON JUNE 28, 1871.  
As reported by Chinese.

Siam Rice, 8,000 piculs, at \$3.50, by Hung-fung to retail merchant.
Siam Rice, 6,000 piculs, at \$2.05, by Hung-fung to Hongkong merchant.
Siam Rice, 1,000 piculs, at \$2.02, by Hung-fung to Hongkong merchant.
Drills, 40 yards, 200 pieces, at \$3.40, by Hung-fung to travelling merchant.
Black Pepper, 100 bags, at \$10.00, by Hung-fung to travelling merchant.
White Pepper, 100 piculs, at \$6.00, by Wofat to Shanghai merchant.
White Sugar, 250 piculs, at \$5.50, by Wofat to Shanghai merchant.
White Sugar, 110 piculs, at \$5.20, by Wofat to Shanghai merchant.
Bermyd Cotton, 60 bales, at \$17.00, by Parsee merchant to Cheuchow merchant.
Calcutta Cotton, 80 bales, at \$12.65, by Parsee merchant to Man-hing.

  

## NEWS FOR THE ENGLISH MAIL.

### HONGKONG.

The Legislative Council has been twice during the fortnight. On Monday, the 29th ult., several votes were passed, which were afterwards brought in bill, regarding the validity of the Extradition Ordinance (No. 3 of 1850) in respect of treaties with China made subsequently to the passing of the said Ordinance. The Chief Justice had recently decided (in Kwok Aing's case) that the Extradition Ordinance was not in force with respect to the Treaty of Commerce standing over as yet set aside and the bill passed through all its stages at one sitting, notwithstanding the protest and withdrawal of the Chief Justice, who with other members complained that no notice had been given of the proposed amendment again on the fifth instant, when the Attorney-General brought in a bill relating to the banishment of persons dangerous to the peace and good order of the colony. The power to do so was given by the Governor in 1870 further provided penalties and re-deportation for those who should return. The Colonial Government, however, had now been directed to repeal the power of deportation conferred in 1867, and last year's Ordinance had been dissolved. It was therefore clear that power, which had already been conferred under authority of a Colonial Legislature to enact. The Ordinance now read a first time expunges that portion of § 9 of 1857 which empowers the Governor to banish or deport from the colony any person whose he may have cause to believe to be dangerous to the public peace or safety, besides providing penalties for the neglect of his order of banishment. It is very unfortunate that the power of deportation should be withdrawn from this afternoon, as it leaves the authorities powerless to banish, besides providing penalties for the neglect of his order of banishment. It is very unfortunate that the power of deportation should be withdrawn from this afternoon, as it leaves the authorities powerless to banish, besides providing penalties for the neglect of his order of banishment. It is very unfortunate that the power of deportation should be withdrawn from this afternoon, as it leaves the authorities powerless to banish, besides providing penalties for the neglect of his order of banishment.

The most important case was that of Lee Ah-nah, a burglar and highway robber of the two Kwois, who was apprehended in 1868 years penal servitude and three floggings. It is pretty well known that the man is also a murderer, though he succeeded in evading the capital charge by intimidating the witnesses. Late, at the trial, he earned a verdict of Wilful Murder against him.

### CANTON.

(From a Correspondent.)

The majority of the gentlemen who were present at the former meeting "to consider the conditions under which the Canton silk trade is at present conducted," and of which meeting I sent you an account, met again, this afternoon, at the residence of Mr. Shamoo, in order to receive and confirm the resolutions of the Committee.

Mr. F. W. Courne having taken the chair, and having read the minutes of the former meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

"First.—That all foreign buyers beg to draw the attention of the sellers to the old system of claiming compensation of the native sellers for any loss in weight on silk, sold in Europe or America, in excess of 3 per cent. on the net weight previous to shipment, and on France, at the rate of 10 per cent. on the gross weight to be taken, being the official weights in England, or the official condition weight in France. Claims for compensation must not be made after receipt of the goods by sailing vessel, by steamship, or otherwise, but by selling agents."

"Second.—That the foreign buyers of Canton silk beg to call the attention of native sellers to the fact, that the old custom of contracts will be altered, and that they are requested to specify only the quantity so contracted for required, but also the quality in particular. In case of any difficulty arising therefrom, the question to be settled by arbitration."

The resolutions were carried.

The resolution, passed at the first meeting, relative to an application being made, through the Foreign Consuls, "to induce the Viceroy of the two Kwois to issue a proclamation commanding the country-dealers to send none but good conditioned silk to market," was, at this meeting, made to read as follows, viz.:—

"That the foreign Consuls be requested to issue a proclamation to induce a proclamation, urging the country-dealers not to send wet silk to Canton, unfit for packing."

This resolution, however, remained, in abeyance, as the subject of sale of robes of silk packages, when in transit, both to Europe and America. It is, nevertheless, to be hoped that both these important questions will receive the earliest consideration of the greatest moment.

In order to render the above resolutions effective, it will, indeed, be necessary for all foreign silk-dealers, at the port, to act in conjunction.

X. Y. Z.

Canton, May 27th, 1871.

### SHANGHAI.

The following items are from the N. C. Herald:—

We have received a copy of the French Municipal report for 1870-71, together with the accounts for 1870-71 was Rs. 86,079, including a balance of £1,874 from 1868-70, and the expenditure £1, 87,725, leaving a balance in hand of £1, 87,725.

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